BROUGHT TO YOU BY PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

PDN AWARDS CELEBRATION TUESDAY, JUNE 22

GLBT INFORMATION SINCE 1998

VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 13 NO. 2 MARCH 2010

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

COMEDY ICON LILY TOMLIN TO APPEAR AT EASTON'S STATE THEATRE -- MARCH 25

Steve Libby's Birthday Celebration!

In the High Gravity Lounge
ALLENTOWN BREWWORKS
812 Hamilton Street, Allentown

Saturday, April 10

DJ SweetLife
www.myspace.com/w1s

$10 cover includes appetizers, audio/visual DJ, door prizes, raffle, cash bar, friends and fun!

All Proceeds to Benefit PA Diversity Network

OSCAR PARTY - BENEFIT FOR PRIDE

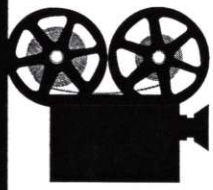
SUNDAY, MARCH 7 AT ALLENTOWN BREW WORKS 7PM - TIL THE LAST AWARD IS HANDED OUT! TICKETS ARE $25.00 PER PERSON. READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 7.

FILM SHOWING - MAR 7&9 ABOUT QUEER/JEWISH YOUTH

PDN & QUEST @ LAFAYETTE CO-SPONSORED FILM HINEINI (HERE I AM) - A FILM ABOUT A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL STUDENT WHO TRIES TO SET UP A GSA.

Both Screenings are followed by a talk back featuring PDN Boardmember Adrian Shanker, Rabbi Rachel Weiss, and Todd Hacker, moderated by Rabbi Moshe Re'em.

The Jewish and Israeli Film Series presents two screenings of this film. Sunday, Mar. 7, 12pm Free Brunch at Lafayette College Hillel (524 Clinton Terrace, Easton). 1:30pm Film Screening in Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, Room 104, $10 per ticket. Free for Lafayette Collge Students, Faculty, and Staff



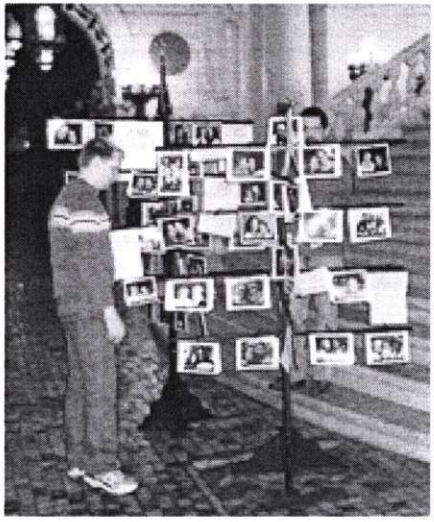
Encore screening: March 9, at 7:30pm at the Jewish Community Center, 702 N 22nd Street, Allentown

PDN PHOTO PROJECT EXHIBITED IN HARRISBURH CAPITOL BUILDING

RIGHT NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE STATE SENATE

READ & SEE PHOTOS ABOUT THE PHOTO PROJECT, FREEDOM TO MARRY RALLIES IN HARRISBURG & ALLENTOWN &, LOBBYING FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY & CIVIL RIGHTS, & AGAINST THE CURRENT ANTI--GAY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SEE MORE ON PAGES 2,11,12 & AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

LIZ OUT LOUD ©

By Liz Bradbury

RASPBERRIES REVISITED

In the last Valley Gay Press, we featured our yearly Roses and Raspberries list regarding those who have done good things for the GLBT community and those who have fallen short.

In response, we got an email sending Raspberries to us, about one of the organizations with which we took raspberry-like issue. This person insisted that there were indeed a lot of people associated with, or working for, or volunteering with this institution, that were either Gay themselves or who fully supported the GLBT community's rights. Further this person let us know, that GLBT people have always been welcome at this institution and have never been turned away in any fashion.

OK, well, I'm not going to mention which one of the organizations or institutions we are specifically talking about here, because our criticism of each of the places we were chiding in the article, applies to each of them in similar ways.

Here's the list of each of the local groups we were raspberrying in our last article: St. Luke's Hospital, Godfrey Daniels in Bethlehem, Boy Scouts of America, Knights of Columbus, the Salvation Army, Sacred Heart Hospital, and Moravian College.

While each of these places may have GLBT people working in them, and may have many people who are pro-GLBT equality associated with them, and some may even have some inclusive GLBT policies --- Each of these institutions have made specific administrative decisions to deny adopting a public policy of full support for the GLBT community. Each of these institutions have been asked to make this commitment, by either PDN, or a larger national pro-equality group or groups, and they have made the choice to say no to adopting this kind of policy of equality.

It is certainly true that some of institutions on our list are blatantly anti-GLBT and act strongly to promote intolerance, far more than others -- The Knights of Columbus is by far the worst on the list in that regard -- but the fact remains that each of these institutions has been asked to endorse a policy that would promote full equality and they have specifically refused to do so in response to the request.

I work for GLBT equality every day, and I've been doing it for 31 years. If you want to get an institution to change -- the first step is to ask them to change. The next step is to get a larger group of people to ask them again. We've been successful with dozens of institutions. Some do it as soon as we ask. Others have to hear from their own workers. patrons, and volunteers.

So if you feel that any of these institutions should not be on this list, then take it upon yourself to ask them to address this issue in a positive way. They may listen to you and change. If they do, let me know, I will cheer for them in print right here in this column. -- I've done it with all the other groups that have changed.

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

VOTE YOUR VOICE

When did you vote last? If it was the 2008 Presidential Election, you are wasting your political capital. There have been two opportunities since then where your vote could have been counted.

The next PA Primary is on May 19 and you have until April 18 to register to vote. This is the election to nominate candidates from each party for the General Election in November. US Senator and US Congressman, Governor, Lt. Governor, and your PA State Senators and State Representatives will be chosen in that election. I know you have an opinion about government. I hope you will take the responsibility to vote and make your opinions count. Don't think your vote won't make a difference. While we had some unexpected setbacks in marriage rights last year, all in all our progress toward equality has made significant gains in the past several years, including increased legal status for LGBT people as a protected class, the freedom to marry in five states and DC, nine other states with substantial domestic partner rights.

We cannot afford to let a vocal minority of conservatives take charge of our lives. We have to be just as visible, vocal, and demanding to ensure equality for our families.

Last month Liz and I went to the Harrisburg Lobby Day organized by Bolton Winpenny. More than fifty other GLBTA advocates came to talk to their State Legislators about the pro equality bills currently in the PA legislature. Those bills are: HB 300 which would protect against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, the Hate Crimes Bill- SB 745 and the Marriage Equality Bill - SB 935. We also wanted to make clear our opposition to the anti-equality Senate bill 707, which would create a Constitutiona; Amendment to prohibit legal recognition of same-sex relationships. During the day, 3,000 cards signed by people who support SB 745 and who are opposed to Senate Bill 707 were delivered cards personally to legislators.

The legislators we spoke to can no longer say no one has asked them to support pro-GLBT equality bills. However some legislators told us that they had received far more anti-GLBT calls and letters than they had pro-equality ones and that they were influenced by that. Does your legislator know you support these pro-equality bills?

While most of us cannot take a day to go to Harrisburg to lobby, each of us can go to the local offices of our legislators, email them or write a snail mail letter stating our support for pro-equality legislation. Have you done that yet? Just do it! Do it now, because the anti-equality forces aren't the least bit embarrassed to speak out against our rights and if you aren't willing to speak up for your rights who do you expect to do it?

To get a voter registration form go to: http://www.votespa.com/

REPORT FROM ORGANIZER BOLTON WINPENNY ON THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY LOBBYING DAY IN HARRISBURG IN FEBRUARY:

We had 46 people setup for appointments with both their representative and senator, so that's 92 appointments. Many of the people shared legislators so we had meetings with 35 different legislators. Of the 46 people, we lost about 16 due to really bad snow, however, we managed to get at least one constituent into the offices of about 32 legislators. There were about 8 of those legislators that failed to keep their meetings, so the constituents met with staff instead.

I counted about 50 people on the steps in the Capitol Rotunda during the press conference. There were others there that were not on the steps. People came for lobbying, but didn't stay for the press conference, and people came for the march & rally but missed the press conference. Total proponents was probably about 75. 3000 postcards in support of SB 935 (The Marriage Equality Bill) signed by constituents were given to their legislators. Due to an email and calling request organized through various organizations, thousands of phone calls and emails were logged in support of SB935 and/or opposed to SB707 (the anti-gay Constitutional Amendment).

New legislators are voting for equality. At least two senators will change their vote since recent sessions toward equality, and at least one other will be less eager to amend the constitution to define marriage as one man and one woman. So we did make concrete progress.

Details can be seen on FreedomToMarryPA.org. From the main page, in the Feb 8th box, click "Meet Your State Legislators". See more photos and video at www.padiversity.org.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page atwww.uuclvpa.org/haven.

HAVEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

HAVEN needs your help. HAVEN is the LV's only lgbt social and support group for teens ages 14 to 20. Haven needs adult volunteers to facilitate weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings in Bethlehem. Facilitators should enjoy working with teens, and should have an ability to deal with lgbt youth in an appropriate and mature way, as demonstrated by years of life, job, or educational experience. Commitment is one Wednesday night per month. Criminal/child abuse background checks required. Training provided by HAVEN. Pls contact Pete Pellegrino, peterp10@ptd.net,610-967-1654.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

GLOSS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The winter schedule is now in effect. If you're interested in skiing or snowboarding contact GLOSS for more info.

See separate articles for ping pong and bowling.

Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

HAVEN PROM

HAVEN will hold its annual Prizm Prom on Saturday, May 1st, from 7 to 11 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, in Bethlehem. This year's theme is Big Gay Sparkly. Tickets are $10 per person at the door. This elegant, discrimination-free alternative to the traditional high school prom is open to all gay, lesbian, transgender, questioning, and allied youth and their friends, ages 14-20. Teachers and community leaders will chaperone the event, which will feature food, fun, and dancing to a DJ. Anyone wishing to volunteer assistance or make a donation should contact Pete Pellegrino at havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit HAVEN's web page at www.uuclvpa.org/haven.html.

BENEFIT FOR READING PRIDE CELEBRATION

On Saturday, March 6th, there will be a benefit performance of "Take Me Out," the 2003 Tony Award Winner for Best Play. Audience Advisory: Mature Themes, Nudity and Strong Language. $25 for wine and cheese at 7 PM with 8 PM performance. Reading Community Players 403 N. 11th Street, Reading. Shuttle available from 13th and Green.

GLOSS PING PONG

GLOSS recently formed a new ping pong group and they are looking for players of all abilities to join in. Ping pong is a social activity that also has the benefit of providing a moderate level of exercise. A lot of new people have joined and everyone's having a really good time.

The group meets every Thursday (except 3rd of month) in South Bethlehem. Starting time is 7pm and it usually runs till 9:30. For more information please contact Info@gloss.org.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month. Jerry Makos, the new GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Jerry at jerry_makos@hotmail.com.

Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

CIVIC THEATRE OF ALLENTOWN PRESENTS: LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Everybody's favorite musical about a blood-thirsty plant is about to get a long-overdue Civic treatment! *Little Shop of Horrors*, one of storied writing duo Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's most treasured accomplishments, will run through Sunday, March 7 at Civic Theatre, with all shows at Civic's 19th Street Theatre. Tickets from $26 to $31; on sale now at www.CivicTheatre.com, call 610.432.8943 or visit Civic's Box Office at 527 N 19th Street in Allentown.

LEADERS OF THE LOCAL DIGNITY CHAPTER

(GLBT Catholics) have announced that they will no longer be meeting.

MCC SEEKS FTMD FEEDBACK

MCCLV offers many thanks to all who planned and participated in the annual Freedom to Marry events on February 12 and 13. The Lehigh County Courthouse Rally and Interfaith Worship Service went well and there are always ways to improve MCCLV's coordination of these events. An Evaluation and Feedback session of Freedom to Marry weekend is set for Monday, March 1 at 7:00 PM at the church. If unable to attend, written feedback may be sent to MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

MCCLV LENTEN SERVICES

MCCLV invites all to Wednesday Night Healing Services at the church during the season of Lent. The Healing Services begin at 7:00 PM with music, preaching and personal testimony. The services are based around the theme of "A Spiritual Checkup."Preaching each night: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Wednesday Night Healing Service: March 3, Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:23-25. Testimony: Brian Jones

Wednesday Night Healing Service: March 10, Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:8-9. Testimony: Maricel Concepcion.

Wednesday Night Healing Service: March 17, Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:5-10. Testimony: Saadia Negron.

Wednesday Night Healing Service: March 24, Scripture Reading: Romans 2:1-11. Testimony: Randy D'Angelo.

Wednesday Night Healing Service: March 31, Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:25-32. Testimony: Marcus Laurence.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & BEYOND

GOBAB 1ST QUARTER UPCOMING EVENTS

March: Weekend movies and dinners. Interested? Email your name to "movies" gobabevents@yahoo.com

Sat. March 20: The Black Party Rites XXXI ... The Saint At Large, Roseland NYC www.saintatlarge.com

Sat. March 27: 1st Quarter Birthday Boyz Dinner. Is your birthday in the months of Jan. Feb. or March? Send GOBAB your birthdates. Interested in attending? Send your email to "1st qtr B-Day" gobabevents@yahoo.com

April: Weekend movies and dinners. Interested? Email "movies" gobabevents@yahoo.com

Sat. April 24: A day in New York City and dinner at LIPS www.lipsnyc.com. Take in the sights of NYC, museums, shopping, the Village, whatever you suggest. Then a great meal and show at Lips. Interested in going? "NYC" gobabevents@yahoo.com

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

The SPECTRUM offers education, peer support, positive role models & recreation for LGBTQA youth in Berks County. Meetings: Wednesday evenings, 2nd floor, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading. Questions? Call 610-376-0137 or visit http://www. myspace.com/ LGBTQPP. To volunteer, contact (Amber Brown, Senior Community Educator/SPECTRUM facilitator) at abrown@PlanItPA.org.

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, Canal Street Pub,535 Canal St, Reading

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. , Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville- 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville @hotmail.com.

PFLAG meeting dates for Allentown: First Tuesday of the month. MonroeMeetings held 1st Wednesdays, monthly at Hughes Library in Stroudsburg 7pm to 9pm in the boardroom.

MEMOIR WRITER'S WORKSHOP

The Central PA LGBT Community Center will be offering a writers' workshop entitled "Writing the Memoir: From truth to art," Instructor: Michelle Simmons, staff writer for Dickinson College. Text--Writing the Memoir: From truth to art, written by Judith Barrington. Every Thursday from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Midtown Scholar in Harrisburg. Tuition: $60 (not including the cost of the book).Make checks out to the LGBT Community Center and send to 221 North Front St, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Credit card payment may be made by calling (717) 920-9534. Seats will not be reserved until payment is received. For further information:(717) 920-9534 or at smaloney@centralpalgbtcenterorg.

GLBT SUPPORT GROUP BERKS COUNTY

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/ refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuary counseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

KUTZTOWN AIDS PROGRAM

"On March 23, at 6 pm the GLBTQ Resource Center at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania will be hosting the program "International AIDS Awareness", with guest speakers from South Africa, Egypt, Ghana, and India. This event will be an opportunity for everyone to hear their testimonies and point of view about AIDS, which can affect everyone without regard to race, origin, or sexual orientation. For more information, please call 484 646 4111 or visit us at www.kutztown.edu/glbtqcenter/"

VISION OF HOPE MCC IN READING

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church of Mountville Announces a new GLBTQ church site in Reading, PA. At: The Quaker Meeting House, 108 N. 6th Street, Reading, PA . Sundays at 7pm and Tuesday, March 9. Vision of Hope MCC Reading is a Jesus focused, Spirit filled, God is alive and active community of faith sponsored by Vision of Hope MCC Mountville – a multi-racial, intergenerational GLBTQ community Contact: Rev. Deb Coggin (717) 682-1873 or Rev. Jen Glass (610) 350-9803 (Se habla Español) or e-mail Reading @visionofhopemcc.org www.vision ofhopemcc.org.

ALL SOULS ECUMENICAL CHURCH

All All Souls is an inclusive and welcoming church with a primary outreach to the GLBT community. The church worships in the chapel at 640 Centre Ave. Reading, PA. For more information: 610-621-1738 or on the web at www.allsoulsecumenical.org,Allsouls@ptd.net

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

Nationally syndicated SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Many thanks to Nicole! See more Sylvia cartoons at the Sylvia website: www.nicole hollander.com.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

SOOZ VIEWS 5

By Sue Sneeringer

TALENT, IDOL, & PROFIT

I am loathe to admit it but I remember The Amateur Hour. Sunday nights, if memory serves (I WAS a small child...seriously!). GERITOL sponsored and a meter popped up on the screen and rated performances by audience applause. There was no panel of judges, no constantly taking the viewers to the brink and cutting to commercial, no folksy color pieces or tantrums on camera to say..."oooh, these people over here are good and those people over there are bad or better yet, crazy..." No. Ted Mack introduced the talent, the talent performed, the people voted, somebody won. A good time was had by all, unless your favorite didn't. Some of the talent the show launched included Gladys Knight, Ann Margaret, Robert Klein, Raul Julia (who knew?), Beverly Sills, Connie Francis and Maria friggin' Callas.

Now, from the beginning of AMERICAN IDOL I was not impressed. Sorry. I know you're not supposed to take it all so seriously. But the show embodied to me just how lost we are inside TV world. Still does. The media success of the O'Reillys, Hannitys and Becks (way to bite back, Rachel!), people who get paid A TON of $$ to LIE on a regular basis, isn't just a fun fact in VARIETY or another distortion CNN's Howard Kurtz, Mr. NOT SO Reliable, can ignore. It IS who we have become and IDOL is part of that, too. Susan Boyle was likely pulled from the cattle call BECAUSE the producers saw a great gimmick. Go back and watch that video again. Her talent stuns so everyone put off by the face, the hair, the dress, etc., has its comeuppance and if we weren't so over-stimulated by all our electronic toys, we wouldn't need that gimmick to get our attention or appreciate her. Conversely, we wouldn't get sucked in by another outrageous thing these Talking Idiots said (paging Ann Coulter...or is she FINALLY irrelevant?!?).

Hey, I'm all for a rousing talent show but I also believe that IDOL is laid out MONTHS in advance, down to the very last decision. That the game is rigged. I think a lot of us suspect that as we watch. Because we seem to be giving in, the corporate monster SO ravenous, SO greedy, SO hellbent on crushing any single spontaneous passionate impulse in any of us that doesn't involve the need for FIFTEEN F*CKING minutes of fame. And it's that same beast that says SOLVING problems KILLS ratings, DENYING equality SELLS soap and profit is WAY more important than what's really going on inside any one of us at any given moment. Paddy Chayefsky had it SO right in NETWORK. I dare you to watch that movie and not come away amazed at his prophesy, one we are living right now, all over the damn dial.

Not qualified to predict Oscar this year and love you, Sandra, but go, go, GO MERYL...!!

AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY: A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

March 24-28 | Baker Theatre Trexler Pavilion for Theatre and Dance, Muhlenberg College.

Theodore Dreiser's classic novel has been transformed into a compelling musical drama with a haunting score by Charles Strouse, one of America's great theatre composers. Based on a true turn-of-the-century (1906) murder investigation, An American Tragedy (the novel) exposed the conflict of desire and ethics in pursuing the riches of the American Dream. With book and lyrics revised by Mark St. Germain, the stage musical tells the story of Charlie Griffin. When Griffin seeks success at his uncle's big city factory, he becomes romantically intertwined with Roberta, a wide eyed factory worker as well as the gorgeous socialite Leslie. His affections and loyalties change as his ambitions grow, leading to tragic consequences.

This exciting world premiere is underwritten by the Baker Foundation. Tickets Online: Box office 484.664.3333 • Email: boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu Not recommended for children.

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK YOUTH INITIATIVE

The PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative serves as a financial resource for special projects undertaken by Lehigh Valley and Berks County LGBT youth organizations.

Groups may request up to $200 per program – but must make the request at least 3 weeks prior to the event.. K-12 public or private school groups, religiously affiliated, and independent groups are limited to two grants per year. College groups are limited to one grant per semester.

At the end of the program, the group is required to submit an After Action Report to the PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative.

Eligibility requirements:
Group must be based in Lehigh Valley or Berks County, PA. Group must be youth led and serve populations under age 25.

Projects that will be funded must fit the following criteria:
The project must be youth-led., Grant request must be filled out by a youth leader. Project must focus on advancing equality and justice to the LGBT Community. Project must serve an educational and/or advocacy purpose to those outside of the grantee.

How to apply: Email a one-page description of the project your organization would like funded to: info@padiversity.org

Don't forget to include: Date of the project, project goals and objectives, primary contact for project, who will benefit from the project, what the money will be used for. **Selection Committee:** Adrian Shanker, Chair, Chris Alvaro, Alanna Berger, Liz Bradbury, Jeff Faller

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT & COMMUNITY MIXER

March 16, 2010 [5:30-7:00 p.m.]

Preceded by Students only networking training at 5pm in the Multicultural Center

An informal networking event to connect Muhlenberg's multicultural community with Allentown's Multicultural City.

There is no cost to attend. RSVP Requested but not Required.

Hors D'oeuvres provided by Muhlenberg College

Muhlenberg Community may RSVP to Robin Riley-Casey: RRiley-Casey@muhlenberg.edu
Allentown Community may RSVP to Adrian Shanker: Aeshanker@gmail.com

SPONSORS

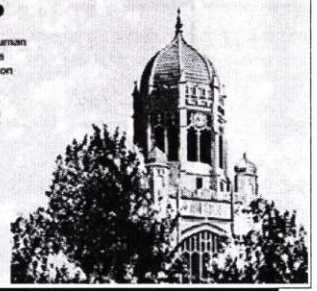
Allentown City without limits

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Multicultural Life MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

THE CARTER CENTER

Multicultural Center
Muhlenberg College
2252 West Chew Street



CALENDAR

All Souls Ecumenical Church worships every Sunday, 640 Centre St Reading, 610-621-1738 www.allsoulsecummenical.org

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,

AIDSWALK-see **FACT**

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

CIVIC Theatre of Allentown 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>

CUUPS --at the UUCLV. uuclv_cuups @yahoogroups.com.

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gay MatterMagazine --

GLEE at Air Products

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

GOBAB -Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond www.gobab.org PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-451-5737 after 6pm,

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call:610-868-2153, email: havenyouth group@hotmail.com

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo groups..com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.

Kutztown Univ GLBT Radio show "Making Waves," w/ Jason Lincoln Tuesdays 4pm -6pm in town: 88.3 FM, 1670 AM. In Eastern Berks: Serv Elec Cable 24 or Hometown Utilicom: 41. Streaming on-line everywhere at http://kur.kutztown.edu

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org,<www.lvgmc.org> 1-800-348-2813, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

LV Transmen - 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCCLV - Metropolitan Community Church, Lehigh Valley, 930 N 4th St., Allentown Services: 10:30am info@mmclv.org , http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

MARCH 2010

Touchstone

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Civic	2 GLOSS RAC LVGMC LV PFLAG	3 HAVEN SPECTRUM Civic FW-WDIY	4 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	5 Civic Crowded Kitchen	6 GLOSS RAC Reading Pride Civic WDIY Parhurst Exhibit
7 Hinein! Movie Civic Oscar Party SC MCCReading	8 RAA	9 GLOSS RAC LVGMC Hinein Movie	10 FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	11 RAA GLOSS V-Ball JCC	12 GLOSS Bowling Crowded Kitchen	13 REN GLOSS RAC Touchstone WDIY
14 UUCLV GLOSS MCCReading AllSouls GLOSS Tennis MCC	15 Touchstone RAA Reading Pride MTG	16 GLOSS RAC LVGMC R PFLAG	17 M PFLAG FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	18 RAA B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball P PFLAG	19 Crowded Kitchen	20 GOBAB Parhurst Exhibit GLOSS RAC WDIY
21 MCC Interweave Crowded Kitchen GLOSS Tennis WDIY UUCLV	22 SC RAA	23 Takeober for Pride Kutztown GLOSS RAC LVGMC	24 Muhlenberg FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	25 Lily Tomlin MCC	26	27 GOBAB Muhlenberg WDIY GLOSS RAC
28 MCCReading MCC AllSouls WDIY UUCLV GLOSS Tennis	29 RAA	30 LVGMC	31 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM FW-WDIY			

APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS PingPong	2	3 WDIY BEARS GLOSS RAC
4 GLOSS MCCReading WDIY GLOSS Tennis UUCLV MCC AllSouls	5 RAA SC	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG GLOSS RAC	7 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	8 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS PingPong	9 GLOSS Bowling	10 Steve's Pa MCC REN GLOSS RA WDIY
11 MCC GLOSS Tennis UUCLV GLOSS MCCReading WDIY AllSouls	12 RAA	13 GLOSS RAC LVGMC	14 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	15 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	16	17 WDIY GLOSS RAC
18 MCC MCCReading Interweave GLOSS UUCLV WDIY GLOSS Tennis AllSouls	19 RAA SC Reading Pride MTG	20 R PFLAG GLOSS RAC LVGMC	21 M PFLAG FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	22 P PFLAG B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS PingPong	23	24 WDIY GOBAB GLOSS RAC
25 UUCLV WDIY GLOSS Tennis MCCReading MCC GLOSS AllSouls	26 RAA	27 GLOSS RAC LVGMC	28 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	29 RAA GLOSS V-Ball MCC 20-30 GLOSS PingPong	30	

MAY 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MCCReading				GLOSS PingPong		Haven Prom BEARS GLOSS RAC WDIY
2 MCC MCCReading GLOSS Tennis AllSouls	3 SC RAA	4 LVGMC GLOSS RAC LV PFLAG	5 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	6 RAA GLOSS PingPong GLOSS V-Ball	7 GLOSS Bowling	8 WDIY REN GLOSS RAC
9 MCCReading MCC GLOSS Tennis	10 RAA	11 LVGMC R PFLAG GLOSS RAC	12 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	13 RAA GLOSS PingPong GLOSS V-Ball P PFLAG	14	15 WDIY GLOSS RAC
16 UUCLV GLOSS MCCReading MCC AllSouls Interweave	17 SC RAA	18 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	19 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	20 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	21	22 WDIY GLOSS RAC
23 GLOSS MCC UUCLV GLOSS Tennis AllSouls 30 MCCReading	24 RAA 31	25 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	26 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	27 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS PingPong	28	29 WDIY GLOSS RAC

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.
Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com
Ren- Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219
Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration. org
SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-685-0888
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

SANCTUARY COUNSELING-
1ST & 3RD MONDAY
y!!! READING PRIDE MTG - 3RD MONS
READING PRIDE COMS-WEDS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES
ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 2ND TUES
EXCEPT THE 2ND WEDS OF JUNE
FRANK WHELAN WDIY - WEDS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
BUCKS CTY PFLAG - 3RD THUR
MCCLV 20'-30'S -LAST THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS
GLOSS PING PONG-ALLTHURS BUT 3RD
GLOSS BOWLING- 2ND FRI
MCCLV POTLUCK- LAST SUN
ALL SOULS - SUNS
MCCREADING - SUNDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SAT
RENAISSANCE -2ND SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY
GLOSS TENNIS -SUNS
MCCLV LENTEN SERVICES -
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

MAR 1- 7 - CIVIC THEATRE
MAR 5-14 - CROWDED KITCHEN
MAR 6 - READING PRIDE BENEFIT
MAR 6,14,20-PARKHURST EXHIBIT
MAR 7 - GLVPRIDE OSCAR PARTY
MAR 7- HINEINI@LAFAYETTE
MAR 9 - HINEINE@JCC ATOWN
MAR 11 - ATOWN JCC
MAR 13-15 - TOUCHSTONE
MAR 19-21 - CROWDED KITCHEN
MAR 20 - GOBAB
MAR 23 - KUTZTOWN
MAR 23, 30 APR6, APR6.20 -
BISEXUAL CURRICULUM
MAR 24-28 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE
MAR 25 - LILY TOMLIN
MAR 27 - GOBAB
APR 3 - TAKEOVER GLVPRIDE
APR 10 - DAY OF DRUMMING
APR 10 - STEVE'S B-DAY PARTY
APR 24 -GOBAB
MAY 1 - HAVEN PROM
JUN 22 - PDN AWARDS NIGHT

OSCAR PARTY, MARCH 7

SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH -- 7PM - TIL THE LAST AWARD IS HANDED OUT! ALLENTOWN BREWWORKS 812 W. HAMILTON STREET ALLENTOWN, PA

All proceeds benefits Pride in the Park 2010. Tickets are $25.00 per person. Big screen award show viewing, Hors 'D Oeuvres, Pasta Bar & Dessert, One beer, wine or special Oscar-tini free with drink specials all night long, Ballot voting and trivia with great prizes, Silent Auction featuring a bevy of superstar loot, Swag bag full of discounts and deals to make you feel fabulous.

SCHEDULE: 7:00pm - Arrival and Pre-Show - Graze on a selection of decadent hors d'oeurvres. 8:00pm - Oscar Telecast Begins.8:45pm - Pasta Bar. 10:00pm - Cherries Jubilee Dessert

SILENT AUCTION: Includes products, gift cards and services from Home & Planet, Wegman's, Lazor Hair Removal, Civic Theatre, State Theatre, Borders, The Holiday Inn, Limo Today, Giant, Zoellner Arts Center, Muhlenberg Theatre, The Woods Campground and many more.Signed items from film, tv and music celebrities and a collection of Broadway CD's, TLA videos, Augusten Burroughs' library, BloodMoon Productions' latest titles, signed artwork and photography., and the model for world renowned photographer Joe Oppedisano!!! www.joeoppedisano.com.

TAKEOVER & AMERICAN HAIRLINES APR 3 EVENT FOR PRIDE

Takeover Lehigh Valley & American Hairlines in Bethlehem hosts Easter Eve Fundraiser for Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Saturday, April 3, 8 PM - 11 PM at American Hairlines, 74 W Broad St, Bethlehem Easter bonnet NOT required! Admission:

$15 per person, 21+ adult only event.Admission includes unlimited beer, wine, soda and water along with a Easter candy bar offering sweet treats, also include two mixed cocktails from the martini bar while supplies last. DJ David C. will be spinning great music all night For more information: www.takeoverlv.com.

LOCAL SHOWING OF PAINTING BY DALE PARKHURST

MCCLV Member Dale Parkhurst's painting "Homeless Man" will be on exhibit in the Faith Gallery at St. James Lutheran Church, 333 E Oxford St, Coopersburg, PA. Gallery Hours: Saturday, March 6, 14, and 20. from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

The Oscars: I predict the academy will honor a woman for the first time as Best Director for The Hurt Locker and her ex-husband, James Cameron, will take Best Picture for the visually stunning Avatar. Sandra Bullock (though I wouldn't rule out, and would love to see, a Meryl Steep upset), Jeff Bridges (though I would love to see Colin Firth win), Monique (this is the category that usually provides the biggest upset) and Christoph Waltz should continue their winning streaks. Don't miss the 6th Annual Oscar Bash at the Allentown BrewWorks Sunday, March 7th to benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. (see our ad elsewhere in this issue!!)

The World: A friend was on a missionary trip in Haiti when the earthquake struck. She said that 30 seconds felt like 5 minutes and the aftershocks were as bad as the initial quake. We Are The World celebrates 25 years and is reborn as a "new" charity anthem to benefit Haitian survivers. Among the glitterati on the new version- Barbra Streisand, Lady Gaga and Katherine McPhee? Was Justin Guarini busy?

Politics: What the eff is up with Democrats? We can screw up a wet dream like nobody's business. It's almost like this party is hosted by Mary Richards. (for the younsters- her parties were famous for being disasters. youtube it.) Obama needs to quit posing for National Enquirer covers and get his crew in order.

The Gays: Encore to designer turned director Tom Ford for his debut, A Single Man. Kudos to rumored crosser dresser/global fashionista/best friend to friends of Dorothy, Lady Gaga for bringing back fun dance pop to the masses. Brava to Wanda Sykes for her spot-on skewering of the already old "Pants on the Ground" called "Boob Out Ya Blouse". Sashay, sashay, sashay to Rupaul and the 2nd season of Drag Race. A gay, a gal pal (fag hag is soooo last century), a lesbian and a cross dresser. Check, check, check and check.

Oh, and our friend, Carol. We think she's bi. For confirmation of her lezbeen tendencies you need look no further than the TakeOver website each month where she and her "friend" Monica are always posing together! Much like Oprah. Oh, Miss O! Ellen already tested the water. It's tepid. Like your relationship with Stedman. But, it's also moist. Like your relationship with Gayle.

******Just Announced:** On Saturday April 3rd, TakeOver Lehigh Valley and American Hairlines are hosting an Easter Party to benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. More details can be found at takeoverlv.com Wait till you see the bunny boys!!

******And finally, I want to celebrate my birthday by having a fundraiser for Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN).** Please join me for a cocktail or ten on Saturday, April 10th in High Gravity at the Allentown BrewWorks on Hamilton Street. $10 cover goes to PDN!!! Great appetizers! Awesome audio/video entertainment by our favorite turntable master, DJ SweetLife!! And some fun prizes to raffle off!! Party starts at 7!! No gifts for the birthday boy! Just donations to PDN!! Hope to see you there!!!!!!!

Planet Parenthood

donniearlucas@msn.com
by Earl and Donnie Snyder

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

We know there are many questions that children inevitably ask their parents. One of them being "Where did I come from?" Usually this leads to the dreaded "birds and bees" discussion. At six years old, Lucas has begun asking that question periodically, and we can tell he is looking for a sincere answer. Telling him that he hatched from a rare blue mystery egg on Farmville or that a big white bird dropped him off at our house because he got too heavy to carry any further will not work any longer. He really does want to know where he came from.

The answer won't be provided in a sex education lesson either. He has seen some expectant mothers close to us, and knows there is a baby inside and he wants to know all about the mother whose belly he was inside. Fortunately we have most of the answers for him.

Our adoption of Lucas was an open one. To us this means that we know who the birth mother is, what she looks like, and that contact can be made if agreed upon. For Lucas this means that so many questions he may have can be answered with the truth. We have kept a picture of us with Lucas and his birthmother in his room since he was a baby and have decided to answer any questions he has truthfully with age-appropriate answers.

We have told him that his birthmother, the woman in the picture, is the woman whose belly he was inside. We have told him her name, her last known whereabouts, and how he has come to be with us, his two dads. Then he asks why he has two dads.

We explain to Lucas that there are many different types of families. There are families with a mom and dad, families with two moms or two dads, families with just one parent. Families with stepparents, grandparents and so on. There is so much diversity among families and that no matter what anyone may tell him, that his family is just right for him.

Of course he doesn't feel that way when things aren't quite going his way, like when he is told to do his homework before he watches TV, or that he is not having ice cream instead of dinner. That's when references to Mommie Dearest and rare prime rib come in handy most. Faye Dunaway may have chosen to no longer acknowledge that movie, but as gay men we cannot help to have one more reason play that movie again.

DAY OF DRUMMING RETURNS TO MCCLV

MCCLV will be holding a "Day of Drumming" with Jim Donovan on April 10, 2010, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Please see Steven Rosenblum for more information. TWO great drumming workshops with Jim Donovan of Rusted Root fame, and Drum! Magazine's 2008 Drum Circle Facilitator of the Year.

Workshop Details: 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM The Rhythm Renewal Drumming Workshop. 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Yoga of Drum and Chant Workshop. Beginners welcomed. Ages 17 and over. Drums provided.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley 930 North 4th St., First Floor (Silkwerks building) Allentown. Free parking behind the building. Pre-registration fee: $35 single workshop or $65 for full day Day of the event: $45 single workshop or $80 for full day. All Major Credit Cards Accepted. Pre-Registration strongly recommended. Register today by calling workshop organizer Stephanie Smith at 484-893-0336 or e-mail biffybeans@gmail.com with questions. Except in the unlikely case that we cancel the event, there are no refunds for this event. All ticket sales are final.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2010! PA DIVERSITY NETWORK DUES

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK IS THE LARGEST GLBT PA ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION ORGANIZATION IN PA, WORKING FOR YOUR RIGHTS EVERY DAY! IN THE LAST YEAR, HERE S WHAT PDN HAS DONE FOR YOU:

1. **Produced and circulated** a full year of the Valley Gay Press - totaling 12,000 copies that were read by 30,000 people. Direct mailed to hundreds of homes every month (this month to 1600 homes). Allowing dozens of local not-for-profit advocacy organizations a free venue to circulate information about their events. PDN also circulates important community news.
2. **Hosted or participated in over 30** community events this year, including the PDN Awards Celebration, Rainbow Family events, community entertainment, and forums.
3. **Provided direct information** on GLBT issues to hundreds of community members who contacted PDN via the Info-line, email, or by calling the PDN office.
4. **Provided the PA Diversity Network Web Site ,** the largest GLBT advocacy web site in the State of PA - with over 300 GLBTA resource listings including doctors, lawyers, therapists, groups, and clubs. Provides everything from up-to-date community reports, to civil rights information, to book reviews, to program information, a Facebook PDN group with 650 members and much more.
5. **Advocated for people who were victims** of GLBT discrimination on a case by case basis.
6. **Created and presented over a dozen presentations** on GLBT Civil Rights, History, and Issues. Presentations included those at: Susquehanna U., Kutztown U. and Reading Community College, GLBT community orgs, Government venues, and Berks County Juvenile Detention Center at the request of GLBT youth residents.
7. **Continued to produce,** present, and display the national award winning PA Diversity Network Photo Project - to help educate and lobby for GLBT relationship rights. Nearly 800 local people are now in this project. This year, the entire project was presented in ten different venues.

TOUCHSTONE PRESENTS
LIVE FROM THE EDGE, BY UNIVERSES

Universes is a company that grew out of a band of New York poets chose to work as an ensemble, blending poetry, song and movement. "Live From the Edge" showcases their special brand of fusion theater, tracking their evolution of poetic language from childhood rhymes and community rituals, to poetry and theater, hip-hop and gospel.

Reserve your tickets early for this unique performance event that turns the poem into a communal act!

March 13-15; Sat. @ 8pm, Sun. @ 2pm, Mon. @ 8pm; tickets: $25/$15 for students or seniors. Advance tickets available through our website or by calling between 8am and 5pm, M-F. Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015 - 610-867-1689 www.touchstone.org - touchstone@touchstone.org.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a Member of MCCLV? The church's membership process is called WELD, with the aim of welding participants more closely to God and to one another. WELDERS meet the first four Tuesdays in March at 7:00 PM. All interested in participating are asked to attend an informational session on Sunday, February 28 after the worship service. For more information see MCCLV Vice Moderator Wendy Bitterman or via e-mail at wendy.bitterman@mcclv.org

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

CREATING CHANGE

I recently had the honor to attend the 22nd National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, in Dallas, Texas. This is the largest national conference for the Queer community, and brings together a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences. I was particularly proud to see the diverse faith representation present at Creating Change. I was at the conference to facilitate the Queer Jewish Caucus, but also had the opportunity to attend other queer faith workshops while I was there. Allyson Diane Hamm was also there to present on behalf of Interweave Continental (the Queer Unitatian Universalist organization) and she was also one of the leaders of the Interfaith worship service at the Conference.

To be truly accessible, a conference like this one needed to provide an array of interfaith offerings, which they did. They began the Conference with an invocation from a Christian minister as well as a Native American spiritual leader. They offered a Shabbat Service and an interfaith Sunday worship experience. There were faith-motivated tables in the exhibition hall sponsored by Dignity USA (Catholics), MCC, Unitarian Universalist Association, the Illif School of Theology, Soulforce, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. And there were plenty of workshops aimed at strengthening the Queer Faith movement.

I mention this because it is important to note that this occurred at a secular conference. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force rightfully recognizes that for many Americans, their opposition to our equal rights stems from their deeply seated religious beliefs. And we cannot win them over with laws alone. They need to see that faith and Queerness are not opposed, and that while many of us are devoutly non-religious, many of us are religious as well. And no, that does not present ANY problem for us as Queer people.

MY faith affirms MY identity, as many of our faiths do. Here in the Lehigh Valley, there are a number of Queer-affirming faith institutions including, but not limited to: MCCLV, Congregation Am Haskalah, UUCLV, Religious Society of Friends, Congregation Keneseth Israel, St. Peter's UCC, and many more. We cannot allow ourselves to be told (either by conservatives or by members of the Queer movement) that we contradict ourselves by being both Queer and a person of Faith. We need to reclaim our identities and fight together.

PROJECT YACHAD

PDN Board Member, Adrian Shanker, is scheduled to teach as part of the Spring Adult Education Series, Project Yachad, at the Jewish Community Center. His workshop, entitled "Jewish Gender Roles Beyond Male & Female" on Thursday March 11 from 7-8pm at the Allentown JCC. There is a small fee to attend the series. Go to www.JewishLehighValley.org and click on the red "Project Yachad" box for more information. Or email Wendy Rosenfeld at wrosenfeld@lvjcc.org

THE BI-SEXUALTIY CURRICULUM

FACILITATED BY ALLYSON DIANE HAMM

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, March 23, March 30, April 6 & April 20, Unitarian Universalist Church of Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, ROOM 212

There has been much confusion as to what exactly a bisexual person is & does. To clear up the mystery & fill in where other programs leave off, Interweave's (Queer UU) national group obtained a grant to create a curriculum to teach people about bisexuality. It is being presented by one of the co-authors, who is also a queer rights activist & UUCLV member.

The program is very interactive & fun. There will be discussion of common myths & misconceptions. There will be a review of terminology, slang & history & discussions & activities focused on choices, relationships, gender identity, cultural identity, and linked oppressions. Come with an open mind. Expect to learn & share. This program is considered adult education with sexual content. Anyone under 18 will need permission from a parent or guardian to attend. The program is FREE, but donations to the church will be accepted if offered.
Directions: http://www.uuclvpa.org/directions.html

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org
Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury
Mailing & Membership -- Patricia Sullivan
Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker, Phil Healing, A'JA Lyons and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns, articles, and cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church LV
930 N. Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem
Many Libraries in Berks County, Allentown Main Library
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Reading Community Theatre -
11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
Allen HS GSA , SPECTRUM
GLOSS, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College Library
Many area GSAs in High Schools and Colleges

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamonz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
The Woods Campground
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading
Sanctuary Counseling --515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:
Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- ☐ Senior dues (over 65) $5
- ☐ Individual dues $20
- ☐ Family dues $25

Additonal contribution $50 $100 other

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.
Make checks payable to **PDN.**

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

PLEASE PAY YOUR PA DIVERSITY NETWORK 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES JUST $20 / $25

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just $20 for an individual membership and $25 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 400 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

PAY YOUR PDN DUES NOW!

AND THEY WILL BE GOOD THROUGH JAN. 2010.

YOU CAN PAY THEM ONLINE AT PADIVERSITY.ORG

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR A $5000 REVITALIZATION GRANT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SECURED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER MANN

CROWED KITCHEN PLAY

Crowded Kitchen Players celebrates its 10th Anniversary with its 40th production, the original comedy "Shore Insanity." This new play was adapted by Ara Barlieb from " Lying at the Beach, " and was written by local playwright, Brian McDermott, a Lehigh Valley native, living in Virginia. The Crowded Kitchen Player cast includes Pamela Wallace, Tom Harrison, Nancy Mikkelsen, Elizabeth Buss, Scott Van Nortwick, Diane Bakos. Keith Moser, Sharon Ferry, Jay Fletcher, and Christian Friebolin.

Runs: March 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 8:00 p.m. and March 7, 14 & 21 at 2:00 p.m. at McCoole's Arts & Events Place. 10 S. Main St. Quakertown. Tickets: $18.- Adults, $14.- Seniors, $8 - Students. Special 2 for 1 Ticket Event – Opening Night, Friday, March. 5th. For Reservations or Information call 610.395.7176 or email ckplayers@rcn.com.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

Dear WTA, Why do anti-gay organizations always use the word homosexual when talking about us, while our groups use the words Gay men and Lesbians? **Signed: English Major**

Dear EM: Savvy GLBT community activists understand that the word homosexual was originally coined 140 years ago to medically label our community as pathologically ill. It's not just a benign scientific term.

Even more significant, a CBS News/New York Times poll recently released, shows 57% of Americans approve of "homosexuals" serving in the military. But change the word "homosexual" to "gay men and lesbians" and the support jumps to 70%.

See the difference there? That's why anti-gay people always say "homosexual." **LB**

Dear WTA, I've heard that the most likely reason for a gay people to be in court is because they are fighting for custody of their own children. And in matters where custody is contested, the gay parent in PA is required to prove that their "gayness" is not detrimental to the child. Is this true. **Signed, Newly divorced Lesbian Mom,**

Dear NDLM, There has been a major change in our favor. An eight-judge Superior Court panel has issued a decision that overturned a 1985 Superior Court decision that said, "A parent must prove that their gay relationship is not detrimental to the child ' is based upon unsupported preconceptions and prejudices -- including that the sexual orientation of a parent will have an adverse effect on the child, and that the traditional heterosexual household is superior to that of the household of a parent involved in a same sex relationship." A three-member panel, voting 2-1, dismissed the notion that a "homosexual relationship could ever be the equal of the traditional family as a suitable family arrangement".

GLBT parents going to court over their kids, must be sure to have lawyers who fully understand and are familiar with this decision. **LB**

Dear WTA, Is it legal for a doctor to deny treatment to a gay person because he is HIV positive, if the doctor's office is in a town where there is no nondiscrimination law that includes sexual orientation as a protected class? **Signed, Prospective Patient**

Dear PP, I'm not a lawyer, but first consider that this is not a sexual orientation issue; it's an ADA issue related to disease and disability. It says at the Americans With Disabilities guidelines web site that if you are HIV+ and you're having problems directly related to that condition, a doctor who is unfamiliar with treating HIV conditions could deny treating you, and refer you to someone who is.

However, if you go to the doctor for something that is their specialty or general area of their experience; like going to a dentist because you have a cavity, or going to doctor that advertises treating diabetes with diet and exercise because you have diabetes, or going to an ENT doctor because you have chronic ear aches, this doctor cannot refuse you treatment because you are HIV+. It is against federal law to do so, because it is against the law to discriminate against people with disabilities ; and HIV/AIDS falls into that category.

What should you do if this happens? Well, the Pennsylvania State Human Relations Commission (or a local Commission in cities that have one -- Allentown or Reading) will investigate this kind of complaint for you at no cost. Go to the PAHRC web site at:www.phrc.state.pa.us to read how to file the complaint. **LB**

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"

by Phil Healing

PLAYING HOUSE

Is it me, or are there other guys who just want to be a house husband? I was gay at a very young age, although I didn't come out until I was 30, which is about 400 in closet years.

During the 'in' times, I was very easily influenced by everything audible, visual, and tactile. Being brought up in a very small house by my not-very-wise-or-aware parents, I had quite a nice little view of the world. Fortunately, it stood me in good stead. I didn't get into heavy drinking or drugs or gangs or any of that stuff. I just wanted to do the right thing.

As I'm growing older and getting oh-so-over the engineering thing, I am painfully ready to be a house husband. I'm already a husband to my delight, but I want to make house. How does one do that? Maybe I should play the lottery.

I still haven't had the courage to drop engineering and go into the leisure industry, as it means giving up - yes - the material things and comforts of life. BUT the yearning is starting to happen. I am going to have to do it soon. Just like being in the closet, things get to the point where you just can't stand it anymore, and I'm about there. We just 'borrowed' a restaurant for Valentine's day and did a 6 course food and wine pairing for 16 people. It was a roaring success. It's the closest I've come yet to making house!

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING" ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH "SCOTTY IN THE CITY"

MONROE COUNTY PFLAG CHANGES MEETING DAY

The meetings will now be on Tuesdays for every month except June - Meetings are: 7:00 until 9:00 -- March 13, April 13, May 11, June 16 (Wednesday), July 13, August 13 (August "picnic" on the first Saturday) September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14.

DOZENS OF ACTIVISTS PARTICIPATED IN THE MCCLV RALLY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY AT THE LEHIGH COUNTY COURT HOUSE IN FEBRUARY. SEE MORE PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ABOUT FREEDOM TO MARRY EVENTS ON PAGES 1,2,12 AND AT THE PA DIVERSITY NETWORK WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

POP QUIZ 12

Name that (out) GAY Historical figure.

1. Civil Rights Leader: _____.

2. Author, Poet: _____.

3. Children's book author of Where the Wild Things Are: _____.

4. Sports icon: _____.

5. First openly gay man to be elected to public office in California: _____.

1.Bayard Rustin 2. Gertrude Stein 3.Maurice Sendak
4.Billy Jean King 5.Harvey Milk

PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK THANKS THE UNITED WAY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WHO CHOSE PDN FOR THEIR DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS!!!

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

REVIEW BY A'JA LYONS

MY HEARTBEAT

BY GARRET FREYMANN-WEYR

Numerous authors have attemped to put a new spin on the classic love triangle, but New Yorker Garret Freymann-Weyr has found a new twist to a very old story. Fourteen-year-old Ellen lives in Manhattan and is starting high school when she is confronted with the likelihood that her older brother Link and their best friend James are a couple. Ellen has nursed a soft spot for James for years, and the revelation that he has been with men and is madly in love with her brother does not change that fact. The book is told from Ellen's point of view as she learns about "society's unwritten rules," and how to get along in the world. The book is quite lovely, but towards the end there are character inconsistencies.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin,ancestry or place o birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identit marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Unio

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theatre of Allentown

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

LV Turning Point

Muhlenberg Theater Association

LV Crime Victims Counci Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Haskalah

LV Progressive Students' Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Old Allentown Preservation Association

The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

WDIY

All Souls Ecumenical Church in Reading

Lehigh Valley Food Cooperative

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

Same-sex couples line up to request marriage licenses at Lehigh County Court Hous in yellow scarves by PFLAG mom Melinda Kohn.

15 clergy took part in MCCLV's Freedom to Marry Celebration. Keynote speaker wasThe Reverend Elder Nancy L. Wilson, Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (front row far right)

See more photos and video of these events at www.padiversity.org

PDN Executive Liz Bradbury speaks for Marriage Equality in the Capitol in Harrisburg

Dozens of people attended the UUC of Harrisburg March and Rally for Marriage Equality

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG